wards provident fund by an employer a cognisable offence;

(b) if so, what are the details thertof;

(c) whether Government also propose to detail with such defaulters in some other ways; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Offences relating to default in payment of contribution by the empoyer is already cognizable offence under section 14-AB of the Employees' Provident Fund and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952

(c) and (d) Cases of default are dealt as per provisions of EPF & MP Act, 1952. The administrative and penal provisions include levy of damages extendng upto the amount of arrears recovery proceeding including attachment and sale of property and prosecutions in Courts of Law.

Committee on non-payment of provident fund contribution

842. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee constituted to go into the massive default of Provident Fund payments has proposed some measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some steps to implement these measures to reduce mounting recoveries of Provident Fund;

(d) if so, details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Committee has also made some other recommendations;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Government propose to take some steps to implement these recommendations; and

(h) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (h) The sub-committee of the Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Ministryy of Labour has made certain recommendations for expediting recovery of the EPF & ESI dues. The major recommendations inter-alia relate to making non-payment of the EPF|ESI dues a non-bailable offence, non-payment of the employer's share a criminal breach of trust; deposit of 75 per cent of the amount as compulsory before the employer seeks judicial intervention; setting up of specia courts etc. The Government ha decded to have the report first considered by the ESI corporation and the Central Board of Trustees; EPF.

Implementing the Code of Wages

843. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a uniform code for wages throught India;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the total number of organised and unorganised labourers in India; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to rectify the social inequalities among labour classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The issue of formulating a uniform national wage policy has been considered by the several bodies in the past. It was considered that such a policy in the sense of uniform minimum moneatry remuneration for tht country as a whole is neither feasible nor desirable.

(c) The distributions of workers in the organised and un-organised sector was not collected during 1991 census. The detajls are available